

Homestake II Planning

Mid 1970s – Early 1980s

River District Redcliff Project Nexus

- Joint Use Project with Homestake Partners
 - Extensively studied by River District and Cities, 1973 – 1977
 - *“Most advantageous for further development consideration”*
 - River District determines it can’t finance with power revenue and water sales
 - 7/77 *“Cities have decided not to pursue development of Homestake by participating in a joint use project”*
 - *Complete financing unacceptable*
 - *Escalating energy costs of concern*
 - *Prefer gravity solution*



Image Landsat

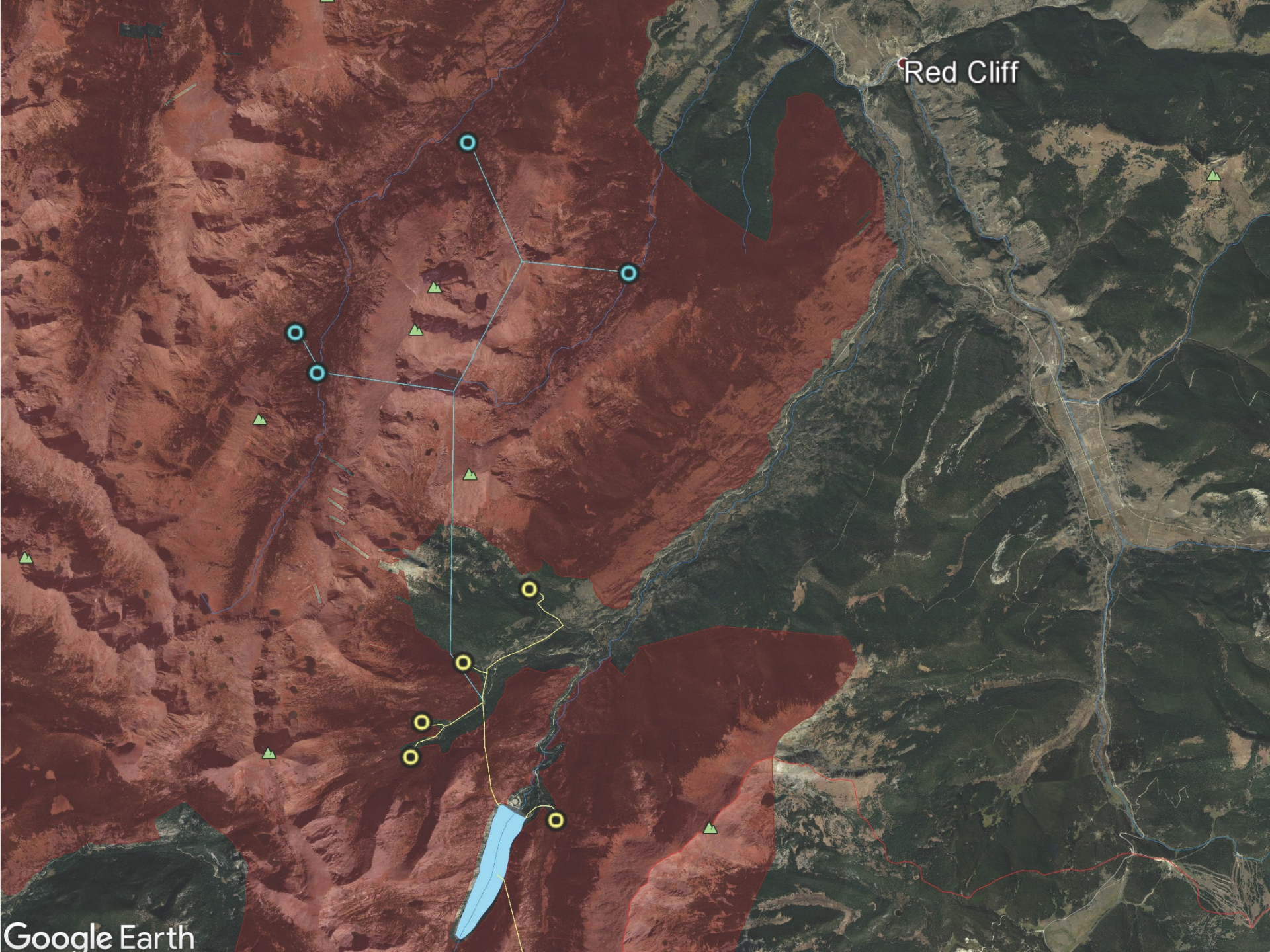
Google Earth

Homestake II Planning

Mid 1970s – Early 1980s

Holy Cross Wilderness Area, Dec., 1980

- Cities obtain statutory exemption for Homestake II construction and operation



Red Cliff

Google Earth



Homestake II Planning

Federal Approvals

- 5/16/83: **USFS R.O.D.**
 - 50 Yrs with 30 Year right of re-entry
 - Stipulated mitigation measures
- 9/2/84 USACOE R.O.D. for **404 Permit**

Homestake II Planning

1983 Request for a Time Out!

- VVCWD requests the Cities take a “time out” and investigate the Green Mountain Pumpback as an alternative
- Colorado Springs response (10/25/83 letter)
 - Denver not willing
 - **Can’t be in place by 1992 when the Cities need the water**
 - No interim reliable source from 1992 – 2010
 - (2010 when Denver needs new supply)
 - Cities will continue permitting preferred alternative
 - Environmental concessions were made

Homestake II Planning

1983 Request for a Time Out!

- Rolly Fischer, Andy Williams and Chris Jouflas meet with Colorado Springs (summer '83)
 - **RE: Iron Mountain Reservoir joint venture with Cities and Denver**
- Colorado Springs response (8/16/83 letter from Harold Miskel)
 - Due to **impending demand**, Cities will continue to pursue the preferred alternative
 - However, Interested in pursuing a joint venture to;
 - Develop Homestake water rights beyond Phase II
 - Develop Eagle – Arkansas water rights

Homestake II Planning

Eagle County 1041

- 5/20/85: Application filed
- 3/11/87: Application found complete
- 4/87 – 9/87: Public hearings
- Planning Commission recommends approval
- 2/22/88: **BOCC denies permit**

Homestake II Planning

Eagle County 1041

- 3/18/88: Cities sue in District Court (88CV142)
- 7/2/91: Remand to BOCC for reconsideration
 - Eagle County could rely only on criteria relating to “*wetlands, aquatic habitat, and possibly other nuisance factors which may effect [sic] the environment of Eagle County*”
 - “*The Board may regulate activities which cause environmental impacts, but not completely prohibit a federally approved land use*”
- **BOCC Upholds Denial**



Homestake II Planning

Eagle County 1041

- 11/17/94: Colorado Court of Appeals upholds Eagle County denial
- 1995: US Supreme Court refuses to hear case

Homestake II is Dead



Eagle River Assembly

1993 - 1994

- Who?
 - Eagle River basin governments
 - Eagle County, all towns
 - Water suppliers
 - UERWA, VVCWD
 - Major water users
 - Vail, Climax
 - Trans-mountain users
 - Aurora, Colorado Springs, Denver, Pueblo



Eagle River Assembly

1993 - 1994

- Why?
 - Local *“frustration with lack of progress and the expense of resolving water policy disputes through the court system”*
 - *“This on-going litigation not only hampered efforts to develop additional water supplies for out-of-basin users, but also interfered with the development of in-basin water supplies and the resolution of in-basin environmental issues”*



Eagle River Assembly

1993 - 1994

- What?
 - *“The Eagle River Assembly has initiated a planning process to identify water resource issues in the Eagle River basin, and to develop cooperative strategies to enhance the condition of the river while providing adequate water supplies for in-basin and out-of-basin interests”*



Eagle River Assembly, 1994

- Outcome
 - Four Potential Water Supply Objectives
 - Replace Eagle River Depletions during Instream Flow Shortages
 - Increase Stream Flow to Recommended minimum Instream Flow Levels
 - Additionally Enhance Eagle River Conditions
 - Supply In-basin Water Uses and Provide Alternative to Homestake II Project
 - *“Objective 4 would develop a less controversial alternative to the Homestake II Project and at the same time provide water for the in-basin uses outlined in Objectives 1 through 3. Under this objective, between 5,000 and 10,000 acre-feet of water would be made available for in-basin uses during the baseflow period”*